

29 May 1980

STAT MEMORANDUM FOR:
 Acting Director, Program Assessment Office, RMS

STAT FROM:
 Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management

STAT SUBJECT: ☐ Study Report

STAT 1. I have the read the ☐ study over fairly carefully and have a number of comments on it. I will defer comments on the statistical issue until after our discussion.

2. Your covering memo cited a pair of key judgments which were deleted from the report. I do want to explore with you how we could implement the suggestion to require quantitative and qualitative product evaluation data with requests for collection system upgrades. I also want to explore how we can get NFAC, DIA, and INR to investigate how finished intelligence might better respond. You were correct in deleting these findings, however.

3. My other comments are organized by page.

-- Page 4. This is the first occurrence of reference to the small sample size. This issue is fuzzy throughout. Remember that the relationship between a sample and the size of the universe from which it is drawn has only a very minor affect on statistical significance. That is why opinion polls drawing on a sample of perhaps 1200 people out of 220 million can have statistical validity. The more important question is the relationship between the sample size and the complexity of the questions being posed to the data. Beyond that, there is the perhaps more fundamental question of the way the sample is drawn and whether one can appeal to arguments resting on randomness. For the ~~gross~~ measures--like the proportion of messages that relate to political or economic matters, the sample may very well be sufficient. For more fine-grained issues--the value of a particular as the paper rightly argues, the sample is probably insufficient to support many conclusions.

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- Page 8 and following pages. All of the tables need to have headings which describe more fully what the percentages mean. In other words, what variable is the indicated percentage of what other variable?
- Page 13. I understand what the analysts were responding to when they rated an item as "essential" or "important." What questions were policymakers responding to? To what activity was the report in question deemed to be essential?
- Page 22. Can you explain to me what [] is? I do not understand what is the []
- Page 29. I would like to know more about [] in NSA.

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